

**Minutes of the  
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting**

Held 6pm, March 12, 2007, San José City Hall  
200 E. Santa Clara St, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room T847

1. **Call to Order** - Chairperson Payne called the meeting to order at 6.05pm.

Present

Bart Thielges  
Lawrence DeSantis  
Bob Halem  
Deb Lefferts (for Lane Parker)  
Matt Thompson (for Corinne Winter)

Absent

Charlie Payne  
Eugene Cordero  
Luis Mendez  
Yolanda Reynolds  
Don Barnett

Guests

John Graff  
Susan Walsh, City of San Jose  
Brandi Hall, Valley Transportation Authority  
Tom Fitzwater, Valley Transportation Authority  
Leyla Hedayat, Valley Transportation Authority

Staff

John Brazil

2. **Approval of Order of Business** – Approved.

3. **Oral Petitions** - None.

4. **Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2007** – This item was deferred to the April meeting because a quorum did not exist to approve the minutes.

5. **New Business**

- a. **Coyote Valley Specific Plan** – Mr. Brazil introduced Susan Walsh, Senior Planner, City of San Jose. Ms. Walsh provided the committee an overview of the history and status of this project. She distributed project information and indicated the Environmental Impact Report would be released in March 2007 for a 60 day public comment period. Ms. Walsh noted that detailed information and analysis is available on the project web page at [www.sanjoseca.gov/coyotevalley](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/coyotevalley) Mr. Thielges encouraged the use of a grid street system in the project; requested better accommodation for bicyclists at larger, busier arterial intersections and interchanges; and suggested a parking cash-out policy be included. In response to member comments, Mr. Brazil stated the city does have long term plans to extend existing Monterey Highway Bike Lanes beyond their current southern terminus at Metcalf Road.
- b. **BART to San Jose Planning** – Mr. Brazil introduced Tom Fitzwater, Valley Transportation Authority. Mr. Fitzwater provided an overview of VTA's planning process for BART to San Jose. Mr. Fitzwater noted that the planning

element is a multi-year project, and that an additional \$700m would be required to construct the project. Mr. Fitzwater distributed materials, provided the project web page link at [www.svrtc-vta.org](http://www.svrtc-vta.org), and noted that the comment period for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report closes March 16, 2007. Mr. Brazil stated the station bike parking requirements listed in the SEIR did not meet city minimum requirements, and that San Jose staff are working with VTA staff to address that issue. Mr. Thielges stated that informal pedestrian walkways currently exist in areas where BART is planned to go underground. He requested that these walkways on BART right of way be formalized and improved in the BART process.

- c. **Transportation Development Act, Article III** – Mr. Brazil reported on the annual Transportation Development Act, Article III (TDA3) grant program. Each year, cities receive a small grant to complete bicyclist and pedestrian related projects. The state grant is funded from sales tax, and the amount cities receive is based on population. Funding requirements limit projects to physical improvements such as sidewalks and bike lanes, as well as programs focusing specifically on bicyclist safety. Mr. Brazil distributed an informational draft of proposed projects for the FY07-08 fiscal year. This item will go to city council for approval in April or May of 2007. In preparing the recommended projects, staff considered all projects in the city's Bicyclist & Pedestrian Project database. The database includes potential projects identified by city staff, as well as those requested by BPAC members and members of the public. Since a BPAC quorum did not exist at the March BPAC meeting, Mr. Brazil will bring this item back to the April BPAC meeting for committee approval.
- d. **Support for Trails Grant Applications** – Mr. Brazil reported that San Jose's Parks Department requested a BPAC letter of support for trails grants it is pursuing. The grants would help fund development of sections of the Guadalupe River Trail (Reach 6) and Coyote Creek Trail (Reaches 3 & 4). Committee members expressed support for the projects and agreed to have the BPAC Chair sign a letter of support on behalf of the committee.

## 6. Old Business

- a. **Bike to Work Day** – Mr. Brazil reported that for 2007, the statewide Bike to Work Day (BTWD) will be held on May 17, 2007. Traditionally, on the morning of BTWD, the committee organizes and operates one or more Energizer Stations in San José. Energizer Stations are tables with free bicycling information, free breakfast snacks, free bicycle helmets, and other supplies. The committee often organizes a media and public official bike ride. The committee agreed that last year's strategy of focusing on one location worked well, and that should be the same focus this year. This event will be on the April and May committee agenda so the committee can continue organizing this event.
- b. **Caltrans Coordination** – Mr. Brazil reported that Caltrans had responded to BPAC's January 12, 2007 letter to Caltrans. In the January 12<sup>th</sup> letter, BPAC requested Caltrans work with city staff to improve bicyclist and pedestrian accommodation where roadways and freeways intersect. Caltrans response expressed a willingness to work together and suggested working with Caltrans District Office staff. Mr. Brazil will contact that office and report back when new information becomes available.

- c. **County Expressway Pedestrian Planning** – Mr. Brazil reported that he had contacted County Roads staff and then provided the following update. The County's 2006 Pedestrian Plan update has been put on hold for a few months due to resource constraints. The County will resume the study later in 2007. At that time, the public and San Jose BPAC will continue to have opportunities for input. County staff also reiterated to Mr. Brazil that the county would not enact any new pedestrian prohibitions on county expressways in San Jose without first obtaining the approval of the City of San Jose. Mr. Brazil reminded the committee that state law requires this approval.
- d. **Committee Bylaws** – No new information was available on this item.
- e. **SJ Airport** – Mr. Brazil reminded the committee that the Mineta San Jose International Airport has begun a two-year \$xxxm physical improvement project. The committee had identified as one of its 2007 priorities a goal of ensuring bicyclist and pedestrian accommodation is appropriately addressed in this project. Mr. Brazil reported that a meeting with San Jose airport staff has been scheduled for later this month, and that he would provide an update at the April BPAC meeting.
- f. **Numbered Bikeway Update** – No new information was available on this item.

**Staff Report** – Mr. Brazil reported that the City of San Jose recently received a Best Fitness Walking Cities award. Prevention magazine and the American Podiatric Medical Association ranked San Jose in the eighth out of the hundred largest U.S. cities. This is the second year San Jose has ranked in the top 40.

- 7. **Committee Member Comments** – No comments.
- 8. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7.45pm.